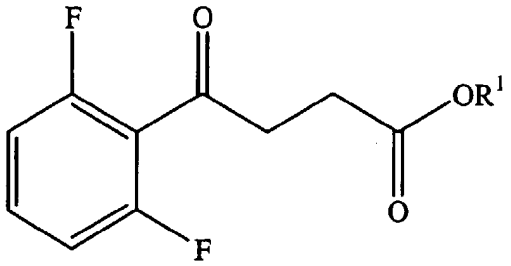
Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claims 1-3 as shown in the listing of claims that follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A ~~biologically active agent, wherein the agent is a~~ compound of the formula:



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wherein

R^1 is hydrogen or alkyl having from 1 to 7 carbon atoms;

or when R^1 is hydrogen, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound.

2. (Currently amended) The ~~agent~~ compound or salt of claim 1, wherein R^1 is hydrogen or ethyl.

3. (Currently amended) The ~~agent~~ compound or salt of claim 2, wherein the compound is 4-(2,6-difluorophenyl)-4-oxobutyric acid.